Policy for running primary schools

1364. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a policy for running primary schools in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that lakhs of children study under open sky in certain States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Though education is a concurrent subject, States frame their own norms for running primary schools. The National Policy of Education and its Programme of Action, alongwith recommendations of the Central Advisory Board of Education, serve as guiding principles for States for running schools.

(c) The last All India Educational Survey 1993 found some Primary Schools running in open spaces. On account of construction of classrooms under Operation Blackboard, DPEP and many other programmes, the situation would have considerably improved since then.

Harassment of female employees in Government offices

1365. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA": Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that cases of harassment of female employees in Government offices are growing day by day;

(b) whether any survey/study has been done in this regard to find out its scale;

(c) if so, the result thereof; and

(d) whether Government would consider bringing a law with a view to deal with such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Supreme Court of India in its judgement dated 13.8.97 in the case of Visakha and others *versus* the State of Rajasthan and others laid down detailed guidelines for prevention of sexual harassment of women at the work place. Action has been taken to implement the guidelines of the Supreme Court in letter and spirit. These guidelines have the force of law under Article 141 of the Constitution of India.

Evaluation of Teachers by Students in Institutions of Higher Education

1366. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rastogi Commission set up by the University Grants Commission had recommended introduction of a system of evaluation of Teachers by students in institutions of higher education; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken so far to introduce this system, to improve the quality of higher education in different Universities and National Institutes of Higher Education, including IITs, Engineering Colleges and Medical Institutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Notification dated 24.12.98 sent by UGC to all Universities, and States and UTs on revision of pay scales, minimum qualifications for appointment of teachers in Universities and Colleges and other measures for the maintenance of standards, *inter-alia*, stipulates that it would be optional for the institutions to consider introducing student evaluation as a method of assessment of the teachers, particularly in small institutions, post-graduate departments, professional colleges and autonomous colleges. Appropriate action for implementation of the above stipulations is required to be taken by the State Governments, UT Administrations and the individual universities concerned.

As regards IITs and Engineering Colleges, there is already a well-established system of taking feed- back from the students in the IITs. The institutions covered under AICTE have not introduced any system of evaluation of teachers by the students. Medical institutes do not fall within the purview of this Ministry.